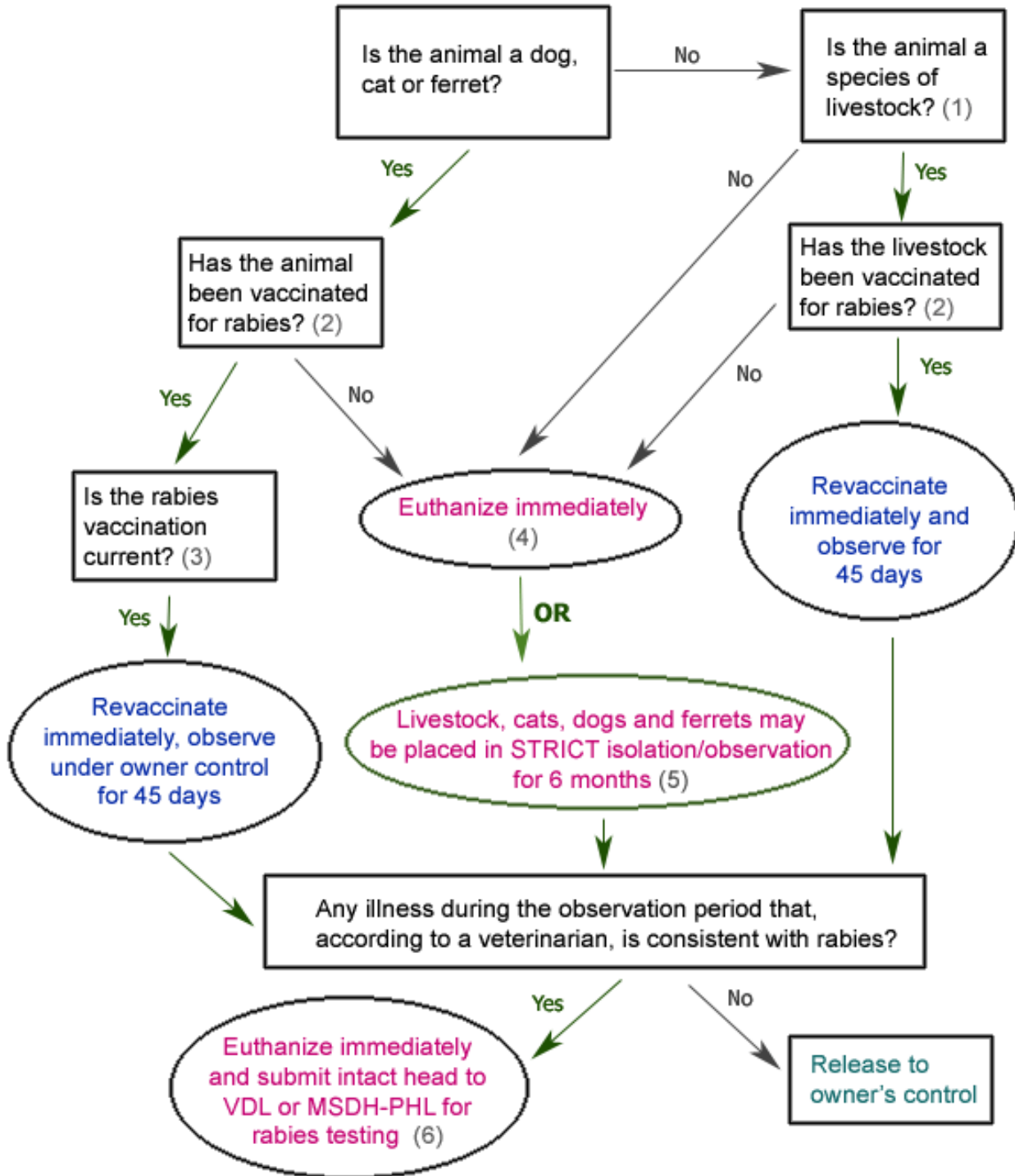


**Animal Postexposure Recommendations Algorithm**  
**Animals Exposed to Rapid or Potentially Rabid Animals**

*Any animal potentially exposed to rabies virus by a wild, carnivorous mammal or a bat that is not available for testing should be regarded as having been exposed to rabies.*



## Elaboration of Algorithm

Reference: *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2003.*

- (1) Livestock is defined as cattle, horses, sheep, and goats.
- (2) Vaccination should be in accordance with the *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control* and state regulations.
- (3) According to state regulations, 3-year immunity vaccine is used in Mississippi. If an animal has been vaccinated in accordance with the *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control* and has been vaccinated in the last 3 years with a 3-year immunity vaccine, the animal is considered current. If the animal is not current on vaccinations, consult the Division of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725. These situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- (4) If the animal is euthanized immediately, there is no need to submit the head for testing since the minimum incubation period would not be met and rabies would not be detected in the brain.
- (5) This is an alternative for cats, dog, ferrets and livestock but not recommended. ***This is NOT an option for wildlife.***

Small animals must be isolated at a veterinarian's office or animal control facility. The animal should be rabies vaccinated one month prior to completion of isolation.

Livestock can be kept under close observation for 6 months. Unvaccinated livestock exposed to rabid animals may be slaughtered within 7 days of the bite and the tissues may be eaten without risk of infection, provided that major portions of the exposed area are discarded. Federal meat inspectors must reject for slaughter any animal that has been exposed to rabies within 8 months. Neither tissues nor milk from a rabid animal should be used for human or animal consumption. However, if the milk or tissue from the animal has been inadvertently consumed, this will not constitute a rabies exposure if the milk has been pasteurized or the meat cooked well.

- (6) All testing is done by the Mississippi State Department of Health - Public Health Laboratory (MSDH-PHL) using direct fluorescent antibody tests. Samples sent to the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (VDL) will be forwarded to the MSDH-PHL.